

You are invited!

January 7–13, 2024



The following pages are our invitation to you—an invitation to explore in the coming year the many opportunities for learning, serving, and community building at Fourth Church as well as an invitation to connect with one another, our staff, and the varied resources available to you here. We hope you will spend a few minutes looking over the opportunities and identifying those that interest you!

Welcome!

We are glad to be worshipping with you today and invite you to continue to join us at this intersection of faith and life as we share God’s grace with one another and the world through worship and ministries of healing, reconciliation, and justice. ✨ Inspired by the radical hospitality of Jesus Christ, we welcome everyone, without exception, into the life of this congregation!

Joining us online

Each Sunday our worshipping body is a wonderful mix of those online, on the phone, and in the pews. For those who prefer to worship online or who are unable to join us in person, we **livestream our 9:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. services** on our YouTube channel (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos), where they can be viewed any time after the services begin. (*For tips on how to watch—from the beginning—a service that is already in progress, see fourthchurch.org/watch-from-the-beginning*) ✨ Those without Internet access are invited to listen via phone by calling 888.916.9166 at 9:30 a.m.

Joining us in person

If you like to join us for **in-person worship**, we gather on Sundays at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. ✨ The **doors open for worship** a half hour prior to each service. There are three fully accessible entrances, without steps, that lead to the Sanctuary: on Michigan Avenue (*through the glass Loggia doors between the courtyard and the main Sanctuary doors*); at 126 E. Chestnut; and at 115 E. Delaware. ✨ **Sunday parking** is available at 900 N. Michigan (*access from Rush or Walton*) at the rate of \$9 for 6 hours (*and \$18 for up to 12 hours*) and at the Hancock garage (*875 N. Michigan, enter from Delaware or Chestnut*) at the rate of \$10 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Validation tickets for the garages must be picked up from an usher. ✨ **Worship can be heard** through “T” or “T-coil” settings of hearing aids. ✨ Please silence **electronic devices** during worship.

Joining us with children

Children are always welcome in worship! **If you need to step out to comfort your child**, the Hospitality Suite, on the second floor of the Gratz Center, is a quiet space for families where worship is livestreamed. During the morning services **nursery care** is available on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center for infants through two-year-olds.

Let us know you're worshipping with us!

Please let us know you are here by filling out an information form. Those worshipping with us via livestream will find a link to the online form—which takes only 20 seconds to complete!—included in the descriptive text below the video (*after exiting full-screen view*); a QR code is also displayed during the “Welcome and Announcements” that can be scanned with a phone camera to take you to the form. Those worshipping with us in person are asked to use the **information pads in the pews**, passing them down the pew so worshippers have opportunity to greet one another by name following the service.

Worship podcasts and sermon text

During the week the Sunday morning **service and sermon is available via podcast** on multiple podcast platforms and at fourthchurch.org/podcasts ✨ You can also receive the previous Sunday morning's **sermon text** (fourthchurch.org/sermons) **by email** by subscribing at www.bit.ly/fpcsermons.

Prayer and meditation

Those who would like to **offer individual prayers of praise or concern with a Deacon today** are invited to do so in Stone Chapel (*through the door to the right of the pulpit*) following the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. services. ✨ On Wednesdays we gather at 9:30 a.m. for **Morning Prayer via Zoom** and at 10:00 a.m. for **in-person Morning Prayer** in Buchanan Chapel. For Zoom details, email Nancy Benson-Nicol (nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org). ✨ Buchanan Chapel is open for **opportunity to walk the labyrinth** between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. ✨ A **Sacred Pause time of meditation** is offered virtually by our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being at facebook.com/reploglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing on Tuesdays (7:45 a.m.) and Saturdays (8:30 a.m.).

Resources for personal reflection

Our **daily devotions** (fourthchurch.org/devotions), written by Fourth Church members and staff, are available as a resource for your **personal meditation and prayer**. To receive them by email, subscribe at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions ✨ Our weekly **“Rhythm and Word” video series** offers ten minutes of midweek music, scripture, and prayer for your viewing at home. A new video is released each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. on YouTube, where you can also view videos from previous series. To receive the videos by email, sign up at www.bit.ly/rhythmwordemail; you can also **subscribe to our YouTube channel** (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos)

About Fourth Church

To **learn more about this congregation or become a member of Fourth Church**, we invite you to the Inquirers' Class next Sunday, January 14 at 12:15 p.m. in Room 5F (*register at www.bit.ly/inquirers124*). For more information about joining, contact Associate Pastor Matt Helms (mhelms@fourthchurch.org).

Sunday opportunities

Those worshipping in person are encouraged to **greet one another during Coffee Hour** in Anderson Hall and the Commons following worship, where there is also opportunity to learn about ways to get connected with one another and Fourth Church. ✨ **“Finding Faith in Hard Times: When Bad Things Happen to Good People”** is the topic of a three-week Adult Education class led by Amy Pagliarella beginning this morning at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room and via Zoom. For Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/aefindingfaith ✨ **Sunday School** for children from three years old to fifth grade meets at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center. ✨ **Eighth-grade Confirmation** meets at 9:30 a.m. in Room 5G. **Junior High** (grades 6–7) gathers at 9:30 a.m. in the Bumpus Room, and at 11:00 a.m. **Senior High** also meets in the Bumpus Room. ✨ Rehearsing on Sunday mornings are **Children’s Choir** (kindergarten–grade 5) at 9:00 a.m. in Room 4G; **Cherub Choir** (ages 3 and 4) at 10:15 a.m. in Room 4B; **Youth Choir** (grades 6–12) at 10:30 a.m. in Room 4G; **Voices of Light**, our gospel choir, at 12:00 p.m. in Room 4G; and the **Handbell Choir** at 12:15 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel Loft. ✨ On exhibit in the Loggia is **“Light in the Darkness,”** featuring the artwork of Jan Brandt and Amy Hanks. ✨ Following the 11:00 service a **pipe organ tour** begins at the front of the Sanctuary. ✨ We invite you to join us this afternoon for **The Gathering: Communion at 2:00**. This more casual, intimate service, which is livestreamed as well, features a breadth of musical expressions.

Get connected

Books by Women will discuss *Firekeeper’s Daughter* by A. Bouley Tuesday, January 9 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bumpus Room. ✨ **Men’s Bible Study** meets via Zoom Tuesday mornings at 7:30 a.m. **Horizons Women’s Bible Study** meets via Zoom Wednesday, January 10 at 12:00 and 6:30 p.m. For details, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org). ✨ **Benevolent Guild**, which creates sewn and crafted items for those in need, meets this Wednesday, January 10 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 5B. *Sewing experience is not necessary.* ✨ **LGBTQIA+ Widen Our Welcome** gathers on Sunday, January 28 at 1:00 p.m. in the Bumpus Room for pizza and a movie. ✨ **“The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy and the Future of American Democracy”** will be the topic of our next **Michigan Avenue Forum**, which will be held on Wednesday, January 31 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Our speaker will be **Robert P. Jones**, author of the *New York Times* bestseller *The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy and the Path to a Shared American Future*. ✨ **Cornerstones**, a fellowship group for those fifty and over, will meet for dinner and a program on **“Do You Hear What You’re Saying?: A Discussion of Microaggressions,”** led by Robert Crouch and Regan Burke, on Friday, February 2 at 5:30 p.m. in Borwell Dining Room. Registration (www.bit.ly/cornerstones224) is required.

Ensure you receive the latest updates from Fourth Church by adding your email address to our distribution list. Simply sign up at www.bit.ly/newsfromfpc

A farewell and a congregational meeting

Senior Associate Pastor **Lucy Forster-Smith will be retiring** on January 14. Lucy will preach at both services next Sunday morning, and we will have a reception in her honor during Coffee Hour that day, as we gather to thank her for her ministry among us and wish her well in retirement. ✨ In light of Lucy's upcoming retirement, Session has called a **congregational meeting for next Sunday, January 14** following the 11:00 a.m. service for the purpose of formally dissolving the pastoral relationship between Lucy and Fourth Church. The meeting will be both in person in the Sanctuary and online.

Long-range planning: proposed strategic directions

Your continued input is essential to the long-range planning process, so we encourage you to join the **Long-Range Planning Task Force** for one of their **upcoming listening sessions**, as the task force shares the **proposed strategic directions** and **welcomes your feedback**. There will be sessions on Thursday, January 18 at 6:30 p.m. (*Zoom*); Sunday, January 21 at 10:45 a.m. (*in person*); Sunday, January 28 at 12:30 p.m. (*in person*); Tuesday, January 30 at 8:00 p.m. (*Zoom*); and Sunday, February 4 at 12:30 p.m. (*in person*). To ensure group sizes enabling all to be heard, **registration is required**. For registration links, see www.fourthchurch.org/about/long-range.html; to learn more, email longrange@fourthchurch.org

Pastoral care and a listening presence and witness

To **talk to a pastor** or **notify pastoral staff** of personal concerns, hospitalizations, or deaths, email Gloria Fleming (gfleming@fourthchurch.org); if the situation requires immediate attention, please call the church at 312.787.4570 to be connected to the Minister on Call. ✨ To **submit a prayer request** to our Morning Prayer or Deacon Prayer Ministries, email Gloria Fleming (gfleming@fourthchurch.org) or Nancy Benson-Nicol (nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org). ✨ Stephen Ministers provide a listening presence for **those facing life's challenges**. To talk with a Stephen Minister, please leave a confidential message at 312.573.3365. ✨ Our **Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being** facilitates **grief groups**. For details, email Sharon Crawford-Tucker (stucker@fourthchurch.org). ✨ To **explore options for counseling**, call the Replogle Center at 312.787.2729, ext. 2260 or visit www.reploglecenter.org.

Stay connected

You can find details about **additional ways to connect** with one another and this congregation, whether in person or online, on our website: **www.fourthchurch.org**, where you will also discover various **resources**. ✨ To see all that is going on at Fourth Church, we encourage you to bookmark our **online church calendar**, which is accessible from our website's home page and at **fourthchurch.org/calendar** ✨ We invite you to **follow us** on YouTube (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos), Facebook (facebook.com/fourthchurch), and Instagram (instagram.com/fourthchurch). ✨ Look for information, updates, and **snapshots of life at Fourth Church** in our weekly email newsletter, to which you can subscribe at ww.bit.ly/newsfromfpc